

Four little girls were killed. A teacher, who deserves all of our recognition and praise for her courage, stood in the line of fire to protect one of those little girls and lost her own life. This teacher, the mother of a 2-year-old, lost her life defending her students.

How do kids come into possession of firearms? They do not buy them. In most States it is unthinkable that they would even approach a counter and try. And yet, day after day in America there is further evidence of children, younger and younger, being found with firearms.

The day after the Jonesboro, AR, tragedy, in Cleveland, OH, it is reported a 4-year-old showed up at a day-care center with a loaded handgun.

In my home State of Illinois, in Marion, IL, a high school student showed up at school the next day with a handgun.

In Daly City, CA, the day after Jonesboro, a 13-year-old was arrested for attempting to murder his principal with a semiautomatic pistol.

There is something we can do about this. I am not sure that it will solve the problem completely, but it can help. Fifteen States have already recognized this problem and done something about it. These States have passed a childhood access prevention law which is known as a CAP law, saying to those who purchase and own handguns, it is not enough for you to follow the law in purchasing them and to use those guns safely; you have another responsibility. If you are going to own a firearm in your home, you have to keep it safely and securely so that children do not have access to it.

Should we consider this as a national model? I think the obvious answer is yes, because the tragedy in Jonesboro, which we will not forget for a long, long time, unfortunately, is not unique. Every day in America 14 young people, ages 19 and under, are killed in gun homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings, with many more wounded.

The scourge of gun violence frequently attacks the most helpless members of our society—our children.

Here is what I am proposing. I am proposing Federal legislation that will apply to every State, not just 15, but every State. And this is what it says. If you want to own a handgun, a rifle or shotgun, and it is legal to do so, you can; but if you own it, you have a responsibility to make certain that it is kept securely and safely. You may buy a trigger lock. Senator HERB KOHL of Wisconsin has a proposal that all handguns be sold with trigger locks. I support it. I am a cosponsor of it. It makes sense.

How many times do you read in the paper, how many times do you listen on TV, to kids with their playmates and the gun goes off and someone is killed? A trigger lock, as Senator KOHL has proposed, is sensible. It should be required. It shouldn't even be debated. I think that legislation will go a long

way toward reducing gun violence. Beyond that, we say to every gunowner, if it is not a trigger lock, put that gun in a place where that child cannot get to it.

As to these two kids, 11 and 13 years old, God only knows what was going through their minds when they were setting out to get the guns to go out and start shooting. They first stopped at the parents of one of the kids and wanted to pick up that parents' guns. That parent had the guns under lock and key in a vault and they couldn't get to them. So they thought about it and said, wait a minute, my grandfather has some, too; let's go over to his place. And that is where they came up with the weapons and the ammunition.

In one instance, one parent had taken the necessary steps to take the guns and keep them away from kids. Sadly, it appears—and I just say "appears" because I do not know all the details—in another case that did not happen.

Now a lot of people will say to me, "There they go again, those liberals on Capitol Hill. Another bill, another law to infringe on second amendment rights." Oh, I know I will hear from the folks from the National Rifle Association, all the other gun lobbies, screaming bloody murder about the second amendment.

Look at 15 States that have already passed these laws, these child access prevention laws, to protect kids, to say to gunowners "you have a special responsibility." You will not find a list of the most liberal States in America. The first State to pass this legislation in 1989 was Florida. The list goes on: Connecticut, Iowa, California, Nevada, New Jersey, Virginia, Wisconsin, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, Delaware, Rhode Island, and in 1995, the last State to pass a child access prevention law, certainly no bleeding heart State by any political definition, was Texas—Texas. The Texas law says it is "unlawful to store, transport or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children are likely to be and can obtain access to it," and it is a criminal misdemeanor if you do it.

I am going to ask my colleagues in the Senate to not only return home this weekend, as I am sure we all will, and witness those sad events on television, the funerals in Jonesboro, the tributes, the teacher who gave a life, but to resolve to do something about it. That is what we are here for. That is why we were elected to the Senate and the House, not just to be sad as we should be, but to do something about it. Not to infringe on people's right to own firearms, but to say "Own them responsibly, put them securely in your homes, keep them safely, keep them away from children."

Mark my words, my friends, and you know this from human experience, no matter where you hide a gun or a Christmas gift, a kid is going to find it.

You can stick it in a drawer and say, "Oh, they will never look behind my socks, that is the last place in the world," or up on some shelf in the closet and believe your child can't reach that, but you know better. You know when you are gone and the house is empty those kids are scurrying around and looking—I plead guilty and did the same thing as a kid, and it helps now with tragic consequences when a gun is involved. So I hope we can address this issue.

First, Senator KOHL's legislation for these child safety devices, these trigger locks, will help. But then take the extra step, follow these 15 States and say as we address the overriding question, the big question, why do children kill, we will come to a conclusion that there are troubled children in America and we should never ignore that fact.

But please, let this Senate and this House, before we leave this year, do something to make certain that those troubled children cannot get their hands on a firearm. I think every parent in America, particularly those of children of school age, paused at least for a moment after they heard about Jonesboro and thought, could it happen to my son, my daughter, my grandson, my granddaughter? The sad reality of life in modern America, is, yes, it could. There are so many weapons being kept so carelessly that it could happen to any of us or any of our children in virtually any school in America.

Mr. President, I know that the Senate has a very busy schedule and limited opportunity this year, but I hope as part of our work we will let the lesson of the tragedy of Jonesboro result in legislation that will be designed to protect children and schoolteachers and innocent people in the future.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

CONGRATULATIONS JUDITH M. BARZILAY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, for the Barzilai, Morgenstern and Specter families, it is a great honor for Judith M. Barzilai to become a judge on the U.S. International Court of Trade. She was nominated by the President on January 27 and confirmed by the Senate March 11, 1998.

For her immigrant grandparents, Harry and Lillie Specter and Max and Regina Morgenstern, it is an accomplishment beyond their aspirations even though they knew they came to a land of great opportunity.

In May of 1947, Max and Regina left the bar and grill which they operated on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn to visit their son, Arthur, his wife Hilda, her parents in Russell, KS, and, most of all to see their granddaughters, Judith, age 3, and Julia, 3 months old. By then, Judy pretty much presided over her parents' household just as she had

over the household of her Specter grandparents after she was born on January 3, 1944.

Judith was the New Year's baby of Russell for 1944. In New York City, the first born in the New Year probably arrived at 12:01 a.m., but it took 3 days for Russell's first arrival in 1944. She came with a retinue of presents from the town's merchants and to our five-room bungalow at 115 Elm Street.

My sister, Hilda, her mother, was a brilliant graduate from the University of Wichita in 1942, had won a scholarship to Syracuse University to pursue a masters degree in governmental administration. She had met, Arthur Morgensten, a handsome lieutenant stationed at Fort Riley, when he came to Wichita in the fall of 1941 to attend Yom Kippur services. They fell in love. So when he was about to ship overseas to the South Pacific in April 1943, Hilda took the transcontinental train ride to San Francisco where they were married. It was not the typical wartime romance with a weekend honeymoon, because the marriage has lasted 1 day shy of 55 years and is still going strong.

When Hilda came home to Russell, KS, to await Judith's arrival, our family was overjoyed, including me, her little brother, although I took up residence in the scorpion-infested basement and gave up high school basketball to take over Hilda's bookkeeping job at O.K. Rubber Welders I might add—at 50 cents an hour.

For me, Judy was more like a sister than a niece during that time. For my parents, Judy was the apple of their eyes. When our sister, Shirley, took off a year from Oklahoma College for Women to teach country school, my father would leave his junkyard to drive Shirley to school with his virtual constant companion, Judith, sitting beside him in the truck without the modern safeguards of seat belts.

My brother, Morton, returned to Russell to join my father and Arthur in a partnership which moved from junk, that is scrap metal, to used oil field equipment to stripper wells. The Morgenstern children, Judy and Julia, joined by twins Jonathan and Johanna in 1952, were the centerpieces of our close-knit family.

When the children grew older and their parents wanted a Jewish education for them, the Morgensterns moved to Wichita where Hilda took on the job of superintendent of the Hebrew School. Wichita was inadequate so they moved to Denver. Denver was inadequate so they moved to New York City. New York City was inadequate, so they moved to Jerusalem where Hilda and Arthur live to this day.

Meanwhile Judy was a serious and accomplished student receiving a B.A. degree from Wichita State University and M.L.S. and J.D. from Rutgers University. After graduation from law school, she was a staff attorney with the International Trade Office of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1983

through 1986. She then practiced law with the prestigious firm of Siegel, Mandell & Davidson in New York City for 2½ years before joining Sony Electronics, Inc., where she worked from October 1988 to the present attaining the position of vice president of government affairs.

With 16 years of experience as a manager, litigator, and business adviser, she was appointed by Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin in 1995 to the Treasury Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of the U.S. Customs Service. She has lectured on international trade law and its application to business. With this extraordinary background, she is preeminently well qualified for the U.S. International Court of Trade.

While it is customary to make a floor speech on confirmation of a nominee, I have taken a little more time of the Senate and the cost of printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because I believe it is worthwhile to note the accomplishments and contributions of families of America's immigrants. We debate the immigration issue in Congress in a variety of contexts, so it is important to chronolog how our country has been enriched by the immigrants' families as evidenced by the new judge for the U.S. International Court of Trade: the Honorable Judith M. Barzilay.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE POWERS—A GIANT OF THE NEW FRONTIER

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn this morning of the death of Dave Powers, who was one of President Kennedy's closest friends and advisors throughout my brother's entire political career.

President Kennedy loved Dave Powers like a brother, and so did all of us in the Kennedy family. My brother couldn't have had the New Frontier without him, and we will miss him very much.

Dave had a warmth and wit and charm that were impossible to match. His Irish eyes were always smiling, and almost everyone he met became his "pal." His extraordinary common sense and his down-to-earth genius for politics at its best made Dave Powers at home in the White House and in anyone else's house.

President Kennedy and Dave discovered each other while climbing the stairs of three-decker houses in Charlestown, MA, in my brother's first campaign for Congress in 1946, and they were inseparable ever after.

They both were veterans of World War II, and both were new to politics. The instant bond they formed took them to the House, the Senate, the White House, and around the world, including their most moving and memorable journey of all, to the Ireland of their dreams. Together, they touched and improved and inspired the lives of countless people in this country and many other lands.

In happy times and stressful times, Dave had a special human quality that could bring an instant smile from Jack or Jackie, or a hug from John and Caroline. Dave's total recall made him the unofficial historian of the New Frontier. He loved to regale my brother by reciting the earned run average of a Red Sox pitcher, or the name of a State convention delegate from a decade ago.

Later, Dave's extraordinary energy and dedication in carrying out his labor of love at the Kennedy Library made it a magnificent tribute to my brother and the years of the New Frontier. In a very real sense, Jack's Library became Dave's Library too.

I extend my deepest sympathy to Dave's wife, Jo, his children Mary Jo, Diane, and David John, and all of Dave and Jo's wonderful grandchildren.

"David, we hardly knew ye."

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, March 26, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,546,161,688,949.53 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-six billion, one hundred sixty-one million, six hundred eighty-eight thousand, nine hundred forty-nine dollars and fifty-three cents).

One year ago, March 26, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,377,852,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-seven billion, eight hundred fifty-two million).

Five years ago, March 26, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,224,085,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred twenty-four billion, eighty-five million).

Twenty-five years ago, March 26, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$457,356,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-seven billion, three hundred fifty-six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,088,805,688,949.53 (Five trillion, eighty-eight billion, eight hundred five million, six hundred eighty-eight thousand, nine hundred forty-nine dollars and fifty-three cents) during the past 25 years.

SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING THE HIGH TECH INDUSTRY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, it's painfully obvious that the nation faces a serious problem in providing our companies with the skilled workers they need to grow and create jobs in America. We do not need a report to tell us there's a problem. All one needs to look at are the job ads in newspapers and on the Internet which are